

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02081 030922Z  
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6106

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 2081

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PEPR, PK, US  
SUBJECT: VERDICT AND SENTENCING OF BHUTTO

1. MURDER CASE AGAINST BHUTTO AND OTHERS IN LAHORE HIGH COURT IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE AND VERDICT AND SENTENCING WILL OCCUR IN COMING WEEKS (BETWEEN MARCH 10 AND 12, ACCORDING TO ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE). I HAVE NO IDEA WHICH OF MANY OPTIONS WILL BE CHOSEN SUCCESSIVELY BY THE HIGH COURT, THE SUPREME COURT, AND THE MARTIAL LAW GOVERNMENT. ONE SCENARIO COULD BE A DEATH SENTENCE AND A QUICK CARRYING OUT OF THE SENTENCE. I CONSIDER THIS QUITE UNLIKELY, BUT WANT TO BE PREPARED TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO FORESTALL IT.

2. THEREFORE UNLESS DIRECTED OTHERWISE I PLAN, IF BHUTTO IS SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR MURDER, TO MAKE IMMEDIATE APPROACH TO HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOP USING FOLLOWING THEME:

"JUDICIAL PROCEDURES WITHIN PAKISTAN ARE OF COURSE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOP AND I HAVE NO DESIRE TO INTERFERE IN SUCH INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HOWEVER I AND MY GOVT HAVE LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN ANY FACTORS THAT AFFECT US-GOP BILATERAL RELATIONS. THEREFORE I AM IN MY PROPER SPHERE OF ACTIVITY WHEN I SPEAK FOR MY GOVERNMENT AND SAY THAT EXECUTION OF MR. BHUTTO WOULD BE VERY BADLY RECEIVED IN THE UNITED STATES, AND WOULD BE A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO THE USG. I HOPE  
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YOU WILL KEEP THIS REACTION IN MIND, AS WELL AS THE PROBABLE ADVERSE REACTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, AS YOU CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY."

3. I BELIEVE WE WOULD NOT BE ALONE IN MAKING SUCH AN APPROACH AND OTHERS SUCH AS THE PRC, SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, WOULD ALSO MAKE THEIR CONCERNS KNOWN.

HUMMEL

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, PINS, PK, US, (BHUTTO)  
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